

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

October 16, 2008

6:00 p.m. – Executive Session

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

FOREST AVENUE SCHOOL

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Liana F. Fenton

Edward Draper

Member Absent: William Coogan

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent Academic and
Technology Services**

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Michael

Crowley.

MOTION: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. To go into Executive Session 42-46-5 (a) 1, 2,5,8,9 at 6:05 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito, Stephen Ponte, Gail Abromitis and Pete Wood. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Crowley announced that there was a vote to deny a grievance and that both sides agree to work on the issue and find a way to move forward.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Forest Avenue School Small Learning Community”

Mr. Stephen Ponte introduced Christa Robinson, Karolyn Bowley and Camille Moy, Forest Avenue School teachers who teach the K-2 classes. Karen Goulart also teaches Special Education and is part of the Small Learning Community team. There are 63 students, including 11 Special Education students in the Small Learning Community. There were meetings with the architects and Facilities Department during the summer where the teachers provided input to

the design. The teachers thanked Ed Collins and

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his team for their hard work. The students' daily schedule was discussed and a video was shown showcasing the small learning community.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•School Bus Safety Week – Mr. Crowley read proclamations for Bus Monitors and Bus Drivers. School Bus Safety Week is October 20 – 24, 2008. This year's theme is "Stop on Red, Kids Ahead".

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Paula Rearick, Student Council Co-Advisor introduced the student representatives - Amanda Wiley, President; Carly Benson, Vice-President; Alex Mey, Secretary; and Celina Wildeman, Treasurer.

Deanna Smith is co-advisor. The students are trying to make changes in student government. A suggestion box is located in the school.

This year, the "Battle of the Classes" has been eliminated from

Homecoming Week and the Student Government is trying to promote all students coming together as a school, not separate classes. On Tuesday, October 21st from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., all students will be decorating the driveway to promote school spirit. Mrs. Spengler suggested sending pictures to the Newport Daily News to showcase what has taken place.

Carly Benson discussed fundraising. Each month, money will be raised for different charities.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information in the School Committee Package:

- Memo from RIDE regarding new school construction approval process.**
- Local Flavor – On November 12th, Forest Avenue School will have a Harvest Feast at lunchtime to showcase produce from local farmers.**
- Information on New World, the new financial package that will be in place next year.**
- Letters to parents regarding iParent communication system.**
- Mrs. Kraeger will be attending a session about amended secondary and middle school regulations.**
- Memo to Town Council from Mrs. McLeish about items in Linden school being surplus. MEC will be holding a garage sale October**

25th with all proceeds going to support MEC grants.

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for October 16, 2008.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2008 Regular School Committee Meeting**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 16, 2008, in the amount of \$349,768.70**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 17, 2008, in the amount of \$72,795.00**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated September 22, 2008, in the amount of \$445.00**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 1, 2008, in the amount of \$310.846.61**

- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 6, 2008, in the amount of \$2,873.58
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated September 16, 2008, in the amount of \$11,432.30
- Approval of Special Grants Register, dated September 30, 2008, in the amount of \$10,447.00

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT

Derek Gosselin Part-Time Custodian, 2nd Shift

MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)

Jaime Sheridan Grade Five Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

From November 6, 2008 to February 23, 2009

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Michelle L. Fonseca, Principal, Aquidneck School

From January 5, 2009 to May 15, 2009

CORRECTION – LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Joanne Reilly-Chaves Grade Four, Forest Avenue School

From September 2, 2008 to approximately January 5, 2009

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MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISORS 2008-2009

Student Activities Coordinator Patrick Aylward

Senior Class Advisors Phil Statser

Alicia Hicks

Junior Class Advisors Michele Smith

Maria Dowler

Sophomore Class Advisors Renee Brietzke

Marianne Curtis

Freshman Class Advisor Amanda Jordan

FIRST Team Advisor Liana Fenton

Math League Advisor Stephen Fagan

Debate Team Advisor TBA

Fall Dramatics Directorship Kevin Zahm

Spring Dramatics Directorship Kevin Zahm

Student Council Advisor Deanna Smith

Paula Rearick

Band Directorship Philip Statser

Choral Directorship Claudia Vars

Model Legislature TBA

Academic Decathlon Advisors Samantha Hines

Flag Team Coordinator TBA

Tempo Ramona Bessinger

Yearbook Alicia Hicks

Karen Sheely

National Honor Society Colleen Larson

Natural Helpers Tim Sunn

Mock Trial Advisor Steven Ruscito

Community Service Colleen Larson

J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISORS 2008-2009

Drama Club Advisor Meaghan Corr

Jackie Zahm

Computer Club Advisor Ron Dumais

Yearbook Advisor Nancy Ashmore

Student Council Advisor Tina Murphy-Reynolds

Art Club Advisor Jill Armstrong

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ACTION ITEMS

BUDGET ADOPTION

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper , 2) Liana Fenton. That the School

Committee adopt the adjusted 2008-2009 School Department Budget in the amount of \$36,673,487. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger met with the Budget Subcommittee this week. Mr. Draper discussed how the budget was adjusted to reach the amount of \$36,673,487, set by the Town Council.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 08-09-02. Unanimous vote.

SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACT

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee extend the Snow Removal Contract to JAM and All Island Landscaping for one year. Unanimous vote.

CONTRACTS

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the contract for Assistant Superintendent for Academic and Technology Services to 2011. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee approve the contract for Director of Technology to 2011. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger introduced Pete Wood, the Director of Technology.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee extend the contract for Superintendent of Schools to 2012. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Draper mentioned that Performance Based Measures have been added to the agreement.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee extend the contract for Business Manager to 2012. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Spengler commended both the Superintendent and Business Manager on another successful year.

OLD BUSINESS

•Core Facilities Committee – The next meeting date will be determined.

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NEW BUSINESS

•Educational Awareness Workshop – All candidates for School

Committee and Town Council have been invited to an Educational Awareness Workshop on October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Information will be given out regarding the Strategic Plan, budget, reform initiatives.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

- CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano updated the Committee on Curriculum areas –**
- iParent roll-out is underway**
- Technology literacy requirements were reviewed – Students will have to take a test by the end of grade 8. By the end of 2010, teachers will need to demonstrate technology proficiency. This is a Federal requirement based on No Child Left Behind and will be implemented next school year.**
- NECAP Testing is underway in the district**
- NWEA local testing will be completed within the week.**
- October is State reporting time.**
- Mrs. Savastano, Mrs. Kraeger and Mrs. McGrath have met with Mr. Ken Swanson, Director of Special Population for Diverse Learners at RIDE and discussed progressive support and an intervention plan.**
- There is a great deal of professional development underway during the day and outside of the school day. Mrs. Savastano and the Technology Team are working with teachers implementing teacher websites and the new state IEPs, as well as NWEA data, and working with curriculum mapping.**

•**FINANCIAL** – Mrs. Kraeger attended a State meeting today and learned that level funding for the coming year might not happen and funding could be less. Towns need to talk to their legislators. Impact Aid funds will also be less than the 2008-09 revenues.

•**FACILITIES** – Mr. Collins explained two energy graphs showing what the school department is paying by contract per KWH. The cost is below what was paid in 2006 and 2007. The rate for gas is locked in for the rest of the year and through the winter to a price compatible to 2005. For electricity, the past five months of the market have been high. Mr. Collins is tracking usage as well as what has been paid year by year for utilities.

Acoustical panels for Forest Avenue School are due to be delivered the first week in November. Energy efficient lighting is due for delivery next week. The divider doors between the three back rooms will be installed shortly. A handicap accessible stage will be built in the common area. Mr. Collins thanked the teaching staff and

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principal for their patience during the renovation process. Field Nair has begun using Forest Avenue School in their National presentations.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton . That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton –

- Attended the 2nd meeting of the STEM Council of Newport County.**
- Attend Business Innovation Factory. This was attended by business people and educators from around the world and discussed the areas of collaboration and innovation.**

Mr. Crowley –

- Attended the Island-Wide Regional Study. After a loss of funding, Hasbro will pick up the difference in cost for the RIPEC Study. The next meeting is November 6th.**
- Attended an Executive Board NSBA Regional Meeting and discussed National Standards.**
- On November 22nd, there will be a "School Board 101" for new school board members in the state.**

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:37 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk